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Employment Situation, December 1984

Maine Department of Labor

Maine Bureau of Employment Security

Maine Division of Economic Analysis and Research

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BATH-BRUNSWICK LABOR MARKET AREA

The unemployment rate in the Bath-Brunswick Labor Market Area remained unchanged at 3.8 percent in December. Meanwhile, the state's unemployment rate rose from 5.3 percent to 5.7 percent, while the national rate increased from 6.9 percent to 7.0 percent. From November to December, resident employment increased from 22,550 to 22,650, while total joblessness declined from 900 to 890. Over-the-month employment increases were reported in shipbuilding and general merchandise stores, while seasonal layoffs occurred in eating and drinking places, hotels and other lodging places, and contract construction. Last year at this time, 1,430 local residents were unemployed, and the unemployment rate was 5.9 percent.

BIDDEFORD-SANFORD LABOR MARKET AREA

Employment losses were recorded during December in the Biddeford-Sanford Labor Market Area pushing the local unemployment rate to 5.8 percent from 5.7 percent in November. Resident employment decreased from 31,200 in November to 30,900 in December. The losses were due in part to a decline in construction activity combined with layoffs by leather and leather products manufacturers. The number unemployed remained unchanged at 1,900. The local unemployment rate of 5.8 percent was above the state rate of 5.7 percent. Last year at this time 2,500 residents were unemployed, and the local unemployment rate stood at 7.4 percent.

LEWISTON-AUBURN STANDARD METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA

The unemployment rate in the Lewiston-Auburn SMSA jumped from 6.0 percent in November to 6.8 percent in December. Meanwhile, the state's unemployment rate rose from 5.3 percent to 5.7 percent, while the national rate increased from 6.9 percent to 7.0 percent. Between November and December, local resident employment declined from 36,100 to 35,700, while unemployment increased from 2,300 to 2,600. Over-the-month, local nonfarm wage and salary employment fell by 500 to 33,600 in December. Employment in manufacturing dropped by 400 jobs to 10,300, as layoffs of 400 jobs in shoes and 100 jobs in rubber and miscellaneous plastics products more than offset a gain of 100 jobs in textile mill products. Employment in nonmanufacturing dropped by 100, with a loss of 200 jobs in services overshadowing a seasonal gain of 100 jobs in wholesale and retail trade. As far as over-the-year figures are concerned, several mass layoffs in the manufacturing sector during the past four months have resulted in lower nonfarm employment in December 1984 than in December 1983. Local nonfarm employment totaled 33,600 in December 1984--down from 33,900 a year ago. The crippled shoe industry has experienced the most dramatic downturn, losing 800 jobs over-the-year. Additionally, textiles and food processing lost 200 jobs and 100 jobs, respectively. On the positive side, nonmanufacturing employment was up 700 with new job gains of 300 each in services and wholesale and retail trade and 100 new jobs each in contract construction and finance, insurance, and real estate. Transportation, communication, and public utilities evidenced a loss of 100 jobs over the year.

PORTLAND STANDARD METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA

Economic conditions in the Portland Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area were mixed in December with both employment and unemployment evidencing increases. Resident employment increased from 100,400 in November to 101,100 in December, while the number unemployed rose from 3,300 to 3,500. The resulting unemployment rate rose from 3.2 percent in November to 3.3 percent in December. Employment gains were primarily attributable to seasonal hiring in retail trade coupled with a corresponding increase in services. The number unemployed increased due in part to layoffs in contract construction. The local unemployment rate of 3.3 percent in December was well below the state and national rates of 5.7 percent and 7.0 percent, respectively. Last year at this time the local unemployment rate was 5.4 percent.

RUMFORD LABOR MARKET AREA

Layoffs in lumber and wood products, shoes, and contract construction were mostly responsible for increased unemployment in the Rumford Labor Market Area in December. Unemployment in the area rose from 1,330 in November to 1,450 in December, while resident employment dropped from 18,230 to 18,020. The resulting local unemployment rate of 7.4 percent is up from last month's rate of 6.8 percent, but compares favorably with last December's rate of 8.3 percent.

WATERVILLE LABOR MARKET AREA

A slight increase in unemployment, coupled with a decline in resident employment, resulted in a rise in the unemployment rate in the Waterville Labor Market Area in December. Resident employment dropped from 21,070 in November to 20,900 in December, while the number unemployed rose to 1,190 from 1,050. The resultant unemployment rate of 5.4 percent was 0.7 percentage points above the 4.7 percent rate recorded in November. The December rate is also the highest unemployment rate the area has experienced since July. Both the state and national unemployment rates rose in December. The state's unemployment rate rose to 5.7 percent from 5.3 percent, while the national rate rose to 7.0 percent from 6.9 percent in November. The local employment situation has shown improvement over the year. In December 1983 the labor force was the same size as it was this December, but fewer persons were employed (20,380), and more were unemployed (1,710). The unemployment rate was 7.7 percent. This December, seasonal gains in retail trade within nonmanufacturing were not enough to offset losses in manufacturing. Moreover, within manufacturing apparel evidenced the largest over-the-month loss.

CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE BY MAINE LABOR MARKET AREA, NEW ENGLAND STATES, AND THE UNITED STATES¹

AREAS	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE			UNEMPLOYMENT			RATE			RESIDENT EMPLOYED		
	Dec. 84 ²	Nov. 84 ²	Dec. 83 ³	Dec. 84	Nov. 84	Dec. 83	Dec. 84	Nov. 84	Dec. 83	Dec. 84	Nov. 84	Dec. 83
LABOR MARKET AREAS:												
AUGUSTA	29,080	29,370	29,630	1,500	1,610	2,050	5.2	5.5	6.9	27,580	27,760	27,580
BANGOR-BREWER	43,100	43,100	44,000	1,900	1,800	3,300	4.4	4.2	7.5	41,200	41,300	40,700
BATH-BRUNSWICK	23,540	23,450	24,100	890	900	1,430	3.8	3.8	5.9	22,650	22,550	22,670
BELFAST	11,090	11,230	11,400	1,250	1,210	1,460	11.3	10.8	12.8	9,840	10,020	9,940
BIDDEFORD-SANFORD	32,800	33,100	33,800	1,900	1,900	2,500	5.8	5.7	7.4	30,900	31,200	31,300
BOOTHBAY HARBOR-WISCASSET	7,680	7,920	8,390	500	470	720	6.5	5.9	8.6	7,180	7,450	7,670
CALAIS-EASTPORT	14,240	14,250	14,540	1,180	1,120	1,700	8.3	7.9	11.7	13,060	13,130	12,840
CARIBOU-PRESQUE ISLE	20,510	20,520	21,210	1,970	1,880	3,610	9.6	9.2	17.0	18,540	18,640	17,600
CENTRAL PENOBSCOT	3,670	3,560	3,720	190	180	240	5.2	5.1	6.5	3,480	3,380	3,480
DOVER-FOXCROFT	6,610	6,430	6,630	360	300	450	5.4	4.7	6.8	6,250	6,130	6,180
ELLSWORTH	20,270	21,070	19,790	1,290	1,280	1,600	6.4	6.1	8.1	18,980	19,790	18,190
FARMINGTON	12,540	12,520	13,400	960	970	1,190	7.7	7.7	8.9	11,580	11,550	12,210
FORT KENT-ALLAGASH	5,200	5,130	4,880	420	350	400	8.1	6.8	8.2	4,780	4,780	4,480
GREENVILLE	1,680	1,620	1,830	140	120	90	8.3	7.4	4.9	1,540	1,500	1,740
HOULTON	4,940	4,940	4,980	310	300	490	6.3	6.1	9.8	4,630	4,640	4,490
KITTERY-YORK	20,300	21,040	20,410	530	510	740	2.6	2.4	3.6	19,770	20,530	19,670
LEWISTON-AUBURN SMSA	38,300	38,400	39,100	2,600	2,300	3,200	6.8	6.0	8.2	35,700	36,100	35,900
LINCOLN-HOWLAND	5,900	5,880	5,970	260	250	370	4.4	4.3	6.2	5,640	5,630	5,600
LIVERMORE FALLS	6,250	6,210	6,080	660	590	730	10.6	9.5	12.0	5,590	5,620	5,350
MADAWASKA-VAN BUREN	4,110	3,970	4,240	390	300	520	9.5	7.6	12.3	3,720	3,670	3,720
MECHANIC FALLS	2,360	2,310	2,170	250	220	290	10.6	9.5	13.4	2,110	2,090	1,880
MILLINOCKET-EAST MILLINOCKET	4,990	4,930	4,990	200	150	290	4.0	3.0	5.8	4,790	4,780	4,700
PATTEN-ISLAND FALLS	2,190	2,180	2,210	120	100	190	5.5	4.6	8.6	2,070	2,080	2,020
PORTLAND SMSA	104,600	103,700	101,400	3,500	3,300	5,500	3.3	3.2	5.4	101,100	100,400	95,900
ROCKLAND	17,960	18,220	17,460	1,030	1,010	1,530	5.7	5.5	8.8	16,930	17,210	15,930
RUMFORD	19,470	19,560	20,390	1,450	1,330	1,690	7.4	6.8	8.3	18,020	18,230	18,700
SEBAGO LAKES REGION	11,870	11,870	11,540	560	490	770	4.7	4.1	6.7	11,310	11,380	10,770
SKOWHEGAN	21,310	21,360	20,990	1,720	1,460	2,330	8.1	6.8	11.1	19,590	19,900	18,660
SOUTHWEST PENOBSCOT	8,310	8,250	8,260	740	660	970	8.9	8.0	11.7	7,570	7,590	7,290
WATERVILLE	22,090	22,120	22,090	1,190	1,050	1,710	5.4	4.7	7.7	20,900	21,070	20,380
STATES: ⁴												
MAINE	527.0	528.1	529.4	30.0	28.0	41.9	5.7	5.3	7.9	497.0	500.1	487.5
CONNECTICUT	n/a	1,694.4	1,627.3	n/a	74.1	79.9	n/a	4.3	4.9	n/a	1,620.3	1,547.4
MASSACHUSETTS	3,057.0	3,075.0	3,031.0	120.0	104.0	176.0	3.9	3.4	5.8	2,937.0	2,971.0	2,855.0
NEW HAMPSHIRE	n/a	527.1	511.6	n/a	17.8	19.9	n/a	3.4	3.9	n/a	509.4	491.7
RHODE ISLAND	503.0	504.7	477.2	22.5	22.4	32.2	4.5	4.4	6.7	480.5	482.3	445.0
VERMONT	277.3	275.2	268.3	11.9	10.8	15.8	4.3	3.9	5.9	265.4	264.4	252.5
NEW ENGLAND STATES ⁴	n/a	6,604.6	6,444.8	n/a	257.1	365.7	n/a	3.9	5.7	n/a	6,347.5	6,079.1
UNITED STATES ⁴	114,028	114,115	111,795	7,978	7,869	8,992	7.0	6.9	8.0	106,049	106,246	102,803

¹ All estimates shown are not seasonally adjusted. Estimates for the State and sub-State areas have been benchmarked to the latest Current Population Survey estimates for the State.

² Preliminary estimates.

³ Revised estimates.

⁴ In thousands.

n/a Not Available

Labor Market Information Services



DECEMBER 1984

EMPLOYMENT SITUATION

SUPPLEMENT TO THE STATEWIDE MONTHLY NEWS RELEASE

A BRIEF ANALYSIS COVERING SELECTED MAINE LABOR MARKET AREAS

AUGUSTA LABOR MARKET AREA

The unemployment rate in the Augusta Labor Market Area dropped in December due to declines in the level of both employment and unemployment. The number unemployed fell from 1,610 in November to 1,500 in December, while resident employment dropped to 27,580 from 27,760 in November. The resultant 5.2 percent unemployment rate was 0.3 percentage points below the 5.5 percent rate recorded in November. Both the state and national unemployment rates rose somewhat during the month. The state's rate rose to 5.7 percent from a November rate of 5.3 percent, while the national rate inched up 0.1 percentage point to 7.0 percent. A year ago the local unemployment rate was 6.9 percent. Resident employment at that time was at the same level as this December (27,580), while 2,050 residents were jobless. Nonfarm wage and salary employment evidenced an overall decline this December with seasonal employment losses in nonmanufacturing offsetting slight gains in manufacturing. Within manufacturing there were some gains in paper and allied products and textile mill products; however, employment losses were registered in leather and leather products and apparel.

BANGOR-BREWER LABOR MARKET AREA

An increase in the number of unemployed helped boost the Bangor-Brewer Labor Market Area unemployment rate from 4.2 percent in November to 4.4 percent in December. The number of unemployed rose 100 to 1,900 in December, while resident employment declined from 41,300 in November to 41,200. The economy of the Bangor-Brewer Labor Market Area continues to fare well when compared with the Maine and national unemployment rates of 5.7 percent and 7.0 percent, respectively. Employment in manufacturing dropped slightly, with losses occurring in petroleum refining and related industries and paper and allied products. Some improvement occurred in metals and machinery and textile mill products. Total nonmanufacturing employment remained at the November level. Employment gains in wholesale and retail trade were offset by losses in contract construction and government.

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